

Name of Lead Agency	North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Location	Lumberton, NC
Title of Project	Robeson County Bridges for Families
Program Option	Five-Year plus 2-Year Extension
Geographic Area and Congressional District Served	7 th Congressional District; Rural
Brief Program Description	<p>The North Carolina Regional Partnership Grant supported program, Robeson County Bridges for Families, utilizes a comprehensive approach and assures interagency collaboration and capacity building in order to provide a full continuum of care using evidence-based practices for substance-involved families who are referred to the Department of Social Services in Robeson County, a rural county in eastern North Carolina. This coordinated and comprehensive approach improves the safety, permanency, and well-being of children who are in out-of-home placement or are at risk of out-of-home placement as a result of their parent's or caretaker's substance abuse, as well as improves the overall well-being and functional capacity of their families. Services include a family drug treatment court; residential substance abuse treatment services where children can live with their parents; four evidence-based substance abuse outpatient services (Strengthening Families Program, MATRIX intensive outpatient treatment, Seeking Safety groups, and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) and other individual, group, and family therapy; strong interagency and interdepartmental collaboration at the local and state levels; and cross-discipline collaborative training in best practices for child welfare, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and family drug treatment courts. The Robeson County Bridges for Families Program serves as a model for statewide strategic planning efforts to support recovery oriented systems-of-care that enhance outcomes for children and families affected by parental and caretaker substance abuse.</p>
Target Population	Substance-involved families who are referred to the Department of Social Services in Robeson County and whose children are in out-of-home placement or are at risk of out-of-home placement as a result of their parent's or caretaker's substance abuse.
Participants Served	<p>Children: 243</p> <p>Adults: 157</p>

	Families:
Major Goals	<p>Increase capacity of SA treatment providers, the court, and the child welfare system in Robeson County and in NC to respond to the needs of children who are in or at risk of out-of home placement as a result of their parent's or caretaker's substance abuse, as well to improve the overall well-being and functional capacity of their families into all services Ensure program sustainability</p> <p>A measurable increase in knowledge about methamphetamine and other substance abuse and the effects on children will be documented among family support and child protective services (CPS) staff of the Robeson DSS by the end of the first year of the grant.</p> <p>By the end of the five years, there will be measurable increase from the current baseline in the documentation in Robeson DSS and the North Carolina Division of Social Services (NC DSS) reporting systems for methamphetamine and other substance abuse for families referred to DSS for family support or to CPS.</p> <p>Coordination of care across systems and collaboration between the Robeson DSS, the court system, and prevention and treatment providers at RHCC will result in more children already in or at risk for out-of-home placement and their parent(s) or caregiver(s) with methamphetamine abuse or other SA diagnosis getting needed treatment.</p> <p>There will be progressive and measurable reduction of recurrence of maltreatment, from the current baseline of recurrence in Robeson County, for families participating in the continuum of care covered through this program.</p> <p>Child welfare staff at Robeson DSS will receive training related to methamphetamine and other substance abuse, including how to identify signs of addiction. Workers will learn about the link between addiction and domestic violence for adult caregivers and child abuse and/or neglect-related trauma.</p> <p>Children involved in the program will spend a fewer number of days in out-of-home placements than the current baseline for substance-involved families engaged with the Robeson DSS.</p> <p>Families successfully completing the outpatient and/or residential SA treatment and parenting programs will have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs as measured by parent/caregiver communication skills, days of abstinence, and employability.</p>

	<p>For families that complete the SFP, children and adolescents will show a measurable increase in family communication skills, social skills, and peer resistance and communication skills, and a reduction in behavioral problems.</p> <p>Children referred by the Robeson DSS to Robeson Health Care Corporation (RHCC) for treatment due to their parent's or caregiver's methamphetamine or other substance abuse and who are found to be in need of Trauma Focused–Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), will demonstrate significantly less acting-out behavior; significantly fewer PTSD symptoms; significantly fewer depressive symptoms; and significantly greater improvement in social competence.</p> <p>Parents and caregivers who have methamphetamine or other substance abuse difficulty, who have substantiated cases of abuse or neglect or findings of services needed by the Robeson DSS, and who accept referral to the FDTC will spend more days in treatment than parents and caregivers who reject this referral.</p> <p>Parents and caregivers who have methamphetamine or other substance abuse difficulty, who have substantiated cases of abuse or neglect by the Robeson DSS, and who accept referral to the FDTC and to the recommended SA treatment will be more likely to meet their DSS family service agreement goals than families who reject these referrals.</p>
<p>Major Program Services</p>	<p>Case Management and In-Home Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Traditional” Case Management • Intensive/Coordinated Case Management • Family Group Decision Making/Family Case Conferencing • Wraparound/Intensive In-Home Comprehensive Services <p>Parenting/Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard and Enhanced Parenting Skills Training/Education • Evidence-Based Parenting or Family Strengthening Program - Strengthening Families Program <p>Family Therapy/Counseling</p> <p>Mental Health and Trauma Services for Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Services • Trauma-Informed Services • Trauma-Specific Services - Seeking Safety <p>Substance Abuse Treatment for Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-Term Residential/Inpatient (more than 30 days) – Matrix Model • Intensive Outpatient Treatment

	<p>Specialized Outreach, Engagement and Retention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-location of Staff <p>Family-Centered Substance Abuse Treatment or Family-Based Substance Abuse Services</p> <p>Substance Abuse Prevention Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Dissemination • Prevention Education • Alternative Activities • Problem Identification and Referral <p>Screening and Assessment – Child Welfare and Other Children’s Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening and Assessment for Child Welfare Issues <p>Screening and Assessment – Substance Use and Other Adult Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening and Assessment for Substance Use Disorders • Other Specialized Adult Screening and Assessment – Trauma/Domestic Violence, Mental Health/Co-Occurring Disorders <p>Children’s Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental Services • Remedial/Academic Supports • Mental Health Counseling <p>Housing Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Support Services • Transitional, Interim or Temporary Short-Term Housing <p>Cross-Systems Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical and Program Training • Cross-systems Policies and Procedures • Regular Joint Case Staffing Meetings • Co-location of Staff • Cross-systems Information Sharing and Data Analysis • Partner Meetings – Regional Partnership and Program Management <p>Family Treatment Drug Court/Dependency Drug Court</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Healthcare Services for Children
<p>Partner Agencies and</p>	<p>Child Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robeson County Division of Social Services

Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services <p>Substance Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services • Robeson Health Care Corporation • Southeastern Regional MH/DD/SAS Local Management Entity • Eastpointe Local Management Entity/Management Care Organization, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services <p>Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Designated Respondent Attorney • The North Carolina Guardian Ad Litem program <p>Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Legal and Related Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Drug Control Policy • Attorney General <p>Other Community and Child and Family Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southeastern Family Violence Center <p>Housing</p> <p>Mental Health</p> <p>Health Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services • Robeson County Department of Public Health <p>Education</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>Other Evaluation and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Treatment Drug Court
Evaluation Design and Comparison Group Type	<p>Quasi-experimental; Matched Population-Level;</p> <p>They are examining three outcomes related to child welfare when comparing the Bridges program with the comparison group: maltreatment recurrence, time to physical reunification, and time to permanency.</p>
Performance Indicators	<p>Safety</p> <p>Quarterly implementation team meetings were organized and led by local</p>

	<p>team leaders as part of the sustainability transition. Members to attend RPG national meeting.</p> <p>Recovery</p> <p>Permanency</p> <p>Robeson DSS is tracking child welfare cases where parents are referred for Bridges FDTC services. Ongoing discussions took place on this topic throughout the year. Treatment was provided to families refereed by the FDTC and DSS.</p> <p>Well-Being</p>
Sustainability Status	<p>At this time it is expected that most of the core functions of the project will be sustained. Many of the RPG practices have been integrated into partner agencies' existing protocols. This is part of the systems change that has begun in Robeson County.</p>